

# Comment for planning application WSCC/011/21

Application number	<input type="text" value="WSCC/011/21"/>
Name	<input type="text" value="Mrs J Green"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="PLOVERS, CHURCH ROAD, CHURCH ROAD, ARUNDEL, BN18 0EW"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Comments	<p>I wish to register my strong objection to the applicator for the construction and operation of an energy recovery facility (incinerator) at Ford, West Sussex. As set out in my comments on the previous, withdrawn, application (WSCC/036/20) I continue believe that, despite the modifications made to the plans, this application would also, amongst other things, have an unacceptable impact on the character of the lower Arun/coastal plain, the setting of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and views from heritage assets including, Arundel Castle. The scale and nature of the new application, including the height of the stack and the size of the building, would not integrate with its wider setting and would have a significant negative impact on character, landscape, topography and appearance of the surrounding areas and the setting of the South Downs National Park (SDNP). In particular, an industrial building of this size would significantly effect and permanently damage the views to and from SDNP. Given the flat topography of the lowers Arun/coastal plain, there are no natural features, such as hills or quarries, or design elements, such as sinking parts of the building below ground level, which would hide or mitigate the impact of such a building that would dwarf local landmarks. Granting the application would have a major impact on the local setting and permanently destroy iconic views to the sea from high points in the SDNP, views from the lower reaches of the river Arun and views up the Arundel Valley including to and from the Arundel castle and cathedral, also impairing the setting of these historic assets. The application is adjacent to a site designated for much needed new homes, with Ford Council having worked to design a sympathetically expanded village with green spaces and local amenities. While recognising the application is for a site that has industrial zoning, again the scale of the new application would all also not integrate with, and potentially damage, local housing plans which should take precedence. The local infrastructure, in particular the size of the B roads, delays at both Yapton and Ford level crossings, parking on Ford Road Arundel and accident black spots on the A259, would not support an increased volume of heavy lorries. While increases are inevitable due to the planned housing at Ford and potential new schools, the site is not directly connected to the motorway network and cannot sustain the larger volumes of commercial lorries needed. It is noted that the increased capacity is to take waste from other counties, suggesting that the increase in scale is not designed to purely to meet local needs. With local shortfalls now being addressed or mitigated by a new Incinerator granted for Horsham and the extant permission for the site, is the increase in scale proportionate? Energy recovery from incineration is not green and has a negative impact on carbon emissions and climate change as the burning of materials like plastics (made from oil) is effectively burning fossil fuel. Clearly, a solution needs to be found for commercial waste but it should be a net zero solution based around reduce, reuse and recycle. Additionally, instead of increasing carbon emissions to generate energy, the focus should be on truly green energy such as solar and wind. I do not, therefore, believe that the application is in keeping with Governments statutory net zero carbon emissions target, the Environment Bill 2021/22, the COP26 race to zero, and the possibility of a future incinerator tax. Sussex is leading the way with green energy from the Ropian wind farm and should prioritise green projects and a circular economy that seeks to minimise waste and promote resource efficacy, rather than increase CO2 emissions. In summary, this is the wrong proposal, given the urgency of reaching a net zero world, in the wrong place, which would do irreparable harm to a historic area of natural beauty.</p>
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Attachments	